

March 22, 1982

£1 703 560 FROM SOCIAL FUND FOR UK EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

First Allocation for 1982

The European Commission has announced the first allocation of the 1982 Social Fund grants for the United Kingdom. About £1 450 000 is allocated to three projects under Article 5 of the Social Fund and another £250 000 for pilot projects.

The European Social Fund was established with the task of assisting vocational training, retraining and resettlement schemes in the member states of the Community, with special emphasis on helping the unemployed. In the past year the UK received a total of £140.88m from the Fund.

Assistance under Article 5 is intended to help with long-term problems of unemployment in specified regions or industrial sectors. The pilot projects are projects chosen because they provide new experience for training methods or training fields hitherto untried. Half the cost of pilot projects is met by the Social Fund.

The following projects have been allocated grant:

Article 5 (regions)

Wigan Industrial Enterprise Ltd, Lancashire

£487 875

For Wigan, a town formerly centred on the coal and textile industries, support goes to programmes in areas like job creation in new business, training in the development of cooperatives, and training individuals to develop viable projects and products.

Workers affected: 1020

Tyne and Wear Enterprise Trust Ltd, North East

£729 800

For the Tyne and Wear, projects include training programmes specifically designed to meet the needs of entrepreneurs and innovators, management counselling of small business, and development of community enterprises such as cooperatives.

Workers affected: 2,150

Enterprise Carrickfergus Ltd, Northern Ireland

£239 800

In Carrickfergus, an area near Belfast, which has suffered particular employment problems in the textiles sector, Fund support goes to a broad-based programme which could lead to the creation of full-time jobs or activities for about 530 people, part-time for about 60 people and maintenance of the jobs for around 140.

Pilot Projects

Cooperative Development Agency, Hartlepool

£133 425

Creation of a cooperative industrial workshop to teach young unemployed persons the skills required to set up their own businesses.

Production Engineering Research Association (P.E.R.A)

£100 650

Provision of a computer system to improve assistance to handicapped people in the transition phase between training and work.

Hyson Green Workshops Ltd, Nottingham

£ 4 000

Training course for unemployed people to enable them to start their own businesses as quickly as possible.

Ulster Polytechnic, Newtownabbey

£ 8 010

Small Business Development Programme, to improve links with government, banking, education and industry for those wishing to expand small businesses.

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